

COMMUNICARE

January 2014

The meeting of Communicare held in January had a presentation on the new '111' service detailed how it would operate, outlining various pathways that will be followed subsequent to a call being made to the local handling centre. The whole concept is to eliminate both unnecessary multiple phone calls as well as reducing numbers using local ED departments. Dr Takhar enhanced the presentation with additional information, but the actual launch date is still unclear – this may be announced shortly and patients will be kept informed – an extensive media coverage is planned when this happens.

Dr Takhar confirmed that final permission from the underground gas pipe company to proceed with completion of the new carpark was expected within the next two weeks.

The new 'stand-alone' Blood pressure monitoring machine at Wansford is now operative. There will be forms available from reception to complete and hand back together with the printout from the machine – reception staff will assess the results shown and decide whether there is a necessity for an appointment with a nurse or doctor. Leaflets are also being produced on guidance for using the machines both at Wansford and Kings Cliffe.

Communicare has covered the cost of renewing the Cryosurgery contract for a further three years (£1700). A question was raised whether this service could be offered out to other practices for a fee - Dr Takhar confirmed that liquid nitrogen could be supplied in canisters for use elsewhere, but as there are no budgets available to cover costs, he was doubtful that other surgeries would take up this offer.

The report on the Borderline Patient Forum gave details of a presentation by the Carerstrust Cambridgeshire Crossroads service. This organisation provides respite care to all age groups following completion of a prescription by a doctor and relevant assessment of need. After one respite session Crossroads follow-up to ascertain any ongoing support requirement. Dr Takhar gave information on a local group in Oundle called Carers Support - In Oundle the Carers Cafe meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at Oundle MIND, 1 Herne Park, East Road, PE8 4BX between 1pm - 3pm Tel 01933 677837 email: carers@northamptonshire-carers.org Website: www.northamptonshire-carers.org

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Borderline forum are due to be elected in April – the existing Chairman, Michael Bacon, has indicated his willingness to be nominated for re-election - other nominations had to be lodged by mid-January – any patient who has been a member of a PPG for over 12 months would be eligible for nomination. Although the closing date for this year's election will have closed by this publication date – if any patient feels they are able to contribute to the important work of this forum, please contact the Secretary, Clare Wagstaffe on superfoguk@aol.com.

Dr Takhar gave a presentation on the Care Quality Commission which began its work in April 2013, visiting practices, hospitals, care homes, etc. to verify standards of location, operation, care, cleanliness, etc. As a visit has been made recently to Oundle surgery, it is anticipated that Wansford may be assessed shortly – this can be done without prior warning although usually 2/3 days notice is given. Talking to patients is involved – either by virtue of their being in the waiting room at the time or by pre-arrangement to attend. Several patients indicated willingness to take part.

Dr Takhar gave information regarding diabetic eye-screening – progress has been made for Wansford/Kings Cliffe patients to be referred to Peterborough in future, instead of Kettering area. The screening team have asked the PPG to confirm they still support the switch as it was originally requested in 2010 and there will need to be care taken for safe transition with transfer of existing data.

A patient raised the question of the future of Kings Cliffe surgery – Dr Takhar confirmed that currently the surgery will remain as it is – recent update work has brought the premises up to acceptable standard – but he did not rule out possible relocation at some time in the future based on further planned development within the village. The aim was to keep costs manageable whilst maintaining local services and he felt it was particularly important to retain the local surgeries rather than being incorporated into much larger practices around the Peterborough area.

The Social Group continue to hold their monthly coffee mornings at Kings Cliffe Active Hall on the third Friday at 10am – all newcomers welcome.